

In the Specification:

Please substitute the following for paragraphs [0015] and [0023] in the application:

[0015] A virtual machine broker 22 manages a pool of N-number of server virtual machines 24 that may be selectively activated and are simultaneously operable. Virtual machine broker 22 receives at a designated communication port (not shown) requests for client services sent from clients 42 (not shown). Virtual machine broker 22 assigns the client services to virtual machines 24 and can start virtual machines 24 or terminate them according to the client services being requested. Virtual machine broker 22 may also enforce login authentication of clients 12 requesting client services. In this implementation, each virtual machine 24 runs software in the Java programming language.

[0023] As is typical for Java language execution, each virtual machine 24 on a virtual machine server 40 includes its own distinct temporary garbage collector 43, which is part of the temporary object manager 30. In this implementation, modified copies of persistent objects (sometimes referred to as "dirty" objects) are identified in a dirty object listing that is stored in temporary object memory 40. In particular, the dirty object listing lists all copies of persistent objects (i.e., objects that were copied from the persistent store) that have been modified by a workspace or within a transaction. Objects identified in the dirty object listing are protected from garbage collection until after the transaction involving the dirty objects is committed or aborted, as described below in greater detail. The dirty object listing or dirty set is a well-known object that the garbage collector 43 includes as part of its "root set", using techniques well known in the art of building garbage collectors. The persistent object store includes a persistent garbage collector 44, which performs

garbage collection of persistent objects in a manner that does not conflict with transaction processing.